



MAINE ADULT EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT

114 programs
120,438 enrollments

July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

Executive Summary

Maine Adult Education consists of 114 publicly funded adult education programs with 120,438 enrollments by adult learners throughout our state.

Local communities have strongly supported the Adult Education System for many reasons including:

- **Educational Attainment**
- **Economic Development**
- **Community Development**
- **Human Development**

For more than forty years, the partnership between local taxpayers and state and federal governments has provided a strong, accessible, and efficient system that offers a continuum of educational services responsive to local conditions.

Educational Attainment

3,030 high school credentials were awarded
12,624 enrollments in Literacy classes
2,029 enrollments in College Transition courses

In the 2005-2006 school year, there were more than 15,584 enrollments by Maine adults in high school completion courses offered through Maine Adult Education programs. Many of these individuals left traditional high school programs for family or economic reasons.

The majority of adults who earned their high school credential last year stated they wished to enter college. Through College Transition programs, Maine Adult Education also helps another segment of our population enter and succeed in college. These individuals hold high school credentials, but do not have the skills or prerequisites necessary to succeed at our local community colleges or universities.

Only 37 percent of Maine residents 25 and older hold a higher education degree compared with 46 percent in the New England region. The Maine Compact for Higher Education has set a goal for Maine to have 40,000 more college graduates in the next decade. Since the number of youth will continue to decline, the increase in college matriculation must be met by currently employed adults. This is an area of growth for Adult Education and one of four strategies identified by the Compact.

“Adult education programs are natural stepping-stones to higher education.”

Greater Expectations,
Maine Compact for
Higher Education,
May 2004

continued on back...

“Our workforce isn’t yet ready for tomorrow’s jobs. Compounding the challenge are thousands of older, less-educated workers laid off by downsizing companies. All of that points to an enormous challenge of retraining and re-educating ourselves for the new economy.”

Charting Maine’s Future,
The Brookings Institute, 2006

“ More workers must demonstrate higher levels of literacy, technology proficiency, and self management to function successfully in the workplace.”

Trends and Implications for the
Maine Workforce,
Maine Dept. of Labor, 2005

Economic Development

21,998 enrollments by Maine adults in vocational courses

2,029 enrollments by Maine adults in college transition courses

Vocational education strengthens people and communities. It gives people the resources and skills they need to cope with change. Skill areas include computer technology, hard trades, allied health, and retail sales.

During the past five years, Maine Adult Education has served many of Maine's dislocated workers from more than 100 companies including small companies from all corners of the state to large mills in Dexter, Millinocket and Biddeford. The workers successfully learned new skills to reenter the job market or proceed to post-secondary training.

Community Development

68,203 enrollments in personal enrichment classes

Lifelong learning is one of the primary goals of our public education system. Such learning strengthens the bonds between community members. The activities are as varied as our learners, ranging from foreign language learning to aerobic exercise, or wreath-making. These courses are housed in our public schools but all instructional and material costs are borne by the learners.

Human Development

2,010 individuals received ESOL instruction

(English for Speakers of Other Languages)

18 Local programs enrolled 277 families in family literacy (2005 Figure)

Many of our citizens do not possess the necessary skills to function in our literate community. These skills include basic reading comprehension and numeracy skills. Many of these learners are immigrants who desperately need these skills in order to become more functioning members of our communities.

Family Literacy is another program supported by our adult education funds. These programs focus on increasing the skills of both the parents and the child since the strongest indicator of how a child will achieve and succeed in education, is the educational goals and attainment of his or her parents.

Adult Education Funding

Funding for Adult Education is substantial and diverse. The foundation for all these sources is the "local share." Local share is the money local communities raise for adult education. This supports the infrastructure from which to address the local educational needs. The adult education state subsidy is used to pay for academic and vocational instructional costs and program administration. No state funding is used for personal enrichment instruction.

| SOURCES | FY 2006 | FY 2005 |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| State Funding | \$ 5,039,322 | \$ 4,669,971 |
| Local Share | 8,493,280 | 8,156,335 |
| AEFLA Federal Grant | 1,674,375 | 1,683,715 |
| Carl Perkins Federal Funds | 867,258 | 902,300 |
| Local Contracts | 978,364 | 765,899 |
| Other Contracts* | 659,103 | 653,479 |
| Enrollment Fees | 3,114,001 | 3,107,515 |
| Other** | 1,407,314 | 1,773,951 |
| TOTALS | \$22,233,027 | \$21,713,169 |

*Contracts for educational services with DHS, DOL, and other state agencies

** Other federal grants (e.g. Even Start Family Literacy), grants from private organizations (Barbara Bush Foundation and Nellie Mae Foundation), other school department and organization funds not detailed elsewhere.

Adult Education: Maine's Link to a Prosperous Future

- **Flexible Programs**
- **Accessible Locally**
- **Connections to College, The Workplace & The Community**

Prepared by the Maine Adult Education Association,
www.maineadulted.org, using data provided by the Maine
Department of Education, www.maine.gov/education/adad/index.htm

Published April 2007